

## The Sun

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## Becker's Conviction.

The District Attorney of New York county has performed a substantial public service in obtaining the conviction of BECKER, the murderer of ROSENTHAL. It has been a task most difficult of accomplishment, because of the substratum of almost unbelievable filth and criminality on which the People's case of necessity rested.

Of BECKER's moral guilt we venture to say that no disinterested person has harbored a doubt since his relations with the enemies of the dead gambler became known. Between this conviction and the verdict of twelve men convinced by evidence admissible in a court of law is a great gulf. That it has been bridged we conceive to be a matter of high civic importance, and CHARLES S. WHITMAN must be recognized as the public agent who has accomplished it.

## Colonel Watterson's Account of the Greeley Campaign.

Would that all political history could be written with the verve, the wit, the straightforward devil may care candor and the Washingtonian veracity which distinguish Colonel HENRY WATTERSON's reminiscences in the *Century Magazine* on the subject of the nomination of HORACE GREELEY. It would then be a true delight to look backward, instead of being so often a bore. The too brief extracts which appear elsewhere are printed by THE SUN mainly as an incentive to the discriminating to procure and enjoy the entire text of this work of genius.

There is little in American annals more dramatic than that swift sequence of the broadly humorous and the intensely pathetic which was started by the enterprise of the famous newspaper *Quadrilateral* at Cincinnati. Colonel WATTERSON's narrative runs fearlessly from the jocular and almost irresponsible beginning of that episode to its tragic end. Some of the facts are yet in controversy; they will remain so, perhaps, as long as anybody lives who was directly engaged in the Greeley campaign. What Colonel WATTERSON has done is to make the amazing story real to a new generation. The conspicuous figures, including the unfortunate candidate for President, leap out at you from the pages of the article in the *Century* in vital individuality; and we think few readers will disagree with us in the opinion that the most ardent spirit and distinctly individual person of all concerned is the eminent but amiable editor who tells the tale.

In a criticism by Mr. HORACE WHITE appended to Colonel WATTERSON's paper we note the mention of the whiskey fraud scandal as one of the "real causes" of the Liberal Republican movement of 1871-72. The Whiskey Ring exposure was an episode of the second, not the first, Administration of President GRANT.

## Heep on the Platform.

One circumstance of the present State campaign must have already impressed the local electorate. This is the character of the Republican contest. As the canvass has advanced, every argument, every appeal to the voter by the Republican campaign speakers has been subordinated to the main theme. This is the familiar issue of "Tammany."

Yet since all evils are at bottom comparative is there not a certain justice in examining those who are now invoking a moral issue? Short as is the memory of the voter, is it not a little early, a trifle premature, in the face of recent incidents in Republican rule at Albany, for Republicans to emphasize their own reformation by assailing Democratic unregeneracy?

Grant every circumstance in the case by which Republican candidates and campaigners seek to prove Tammany predominance at Albany in the past two years, is there anything in the record of these years to rival the evil eminence of the "Grocery," to dim the victories of Republican leaders which the Alldis trial spread upon the public records? Has there been any such reproach upon the Dix administration as the insurance investigation placed upon a previous Republican administration?

The President Pro Tem of the Democratic Senate is a member of Tammany Hall, but can Republican campaigners justly and fairly charge him with having been taken with a bribe in his hand? The Assembly of 1911 had a Democratic Speaker, but not yet has the most virulent scandalmonger on the Republican side hinted that there existed any such basis for suspecting his integrity as the testimony in the Alldis trial supplies in the case of a Republican Speaker.

Concede the correctness of the most extreme statement of present and prospective Tammany supremacy at the Capitol, and such concession does violence to the facts, can the "Grocery" Party safely invoke a moral issue or

make effective use of the "finger of scorn" recently, oh so recently, employed in testing the outside of envelopes that "feel good"? As for Tammany itself, has the influence from Fourteenth Street yet rivalled the unforgetting achievements of Newburgh at Albany?

It is not in the least impossible that the party of the "Grocery," which selected the Hon. JOTHAM P. ALDIS to head its majorities both in the Assembly and the Senate, has reformed. Indeed, exile from power is one of the surest ways of insuring reformation of political parties. Yet will not any impartial comparison of the prejudicial allegations made against Democratic rule at Albany with the affidavits, sworn testimony, official records, say of the Alldis trial alone, suggest that the time is not yet to end the probation nor the moment propitious for the probationers to attract too general attention by faithful imitation of URIAH HEEP?

## The Comedy of Vera Cruz.

To court-martial and shoot FELIX DIAZ for his part in the Vera Cruz comedy would be unworthy of President MADERO, who is supposed to have a sense of humor and is known to be humane. Further particulars of the recapture of the seaport disclose no heroic resistance by the nephew of his uncle; in fact he doesn't figure in the exchange of shots at all. Perhaps he was taking the accustomed siesta.

It seems that General JOAQUIN BIZTRAN, the Federal commander, walked into the town with 2,000 men, and had only a small force of volunteers led by the chief of police and a "military judge" to deal with. Both of these men were shot down. There was another brush with an outpost elsewhere in the city, and the long heralded battle of Vera Cruz was over. Mention should perhaps be made of two shells fired from the gunboat *Morelos* which frightened a body of rebels out of a church. Some of the officers of DIAZ decamped early and made good their escape. He himself rallied no combatants, directed no movements, displayed no military prowess or skill whatever. Don PORFIRIO will groan aloud when he reads about the bad business FELIX made of holding Vera Cruz and driving the tenant of Chapultepec into exile.

As a matter of fact General FELIX has rendered FRANCISCO MADERO an inestimable service. Twice a DIAZ has crumbled before him. The added prestige cannot fail to make itself felt in the furthest confines of Chihuahua and Sinaloa. Of course the nephew will have to be tried, but justice should be tempered with mercy. A short term in a cell adjoining that of the luckless BERNARDO REYES would be punishment enough for the gay young staff officer who did not know what to do with Vera Cruz.

## American Public Spirit.

In his concluding article about our United States, appearing in the November *Harper's*, ARNOLD BENNETT takes us to task for our absence of public spirit. He relates with disgust the custom of a New Yorker who gave frequent tips to a chef in return for the choicest chops and steaks, and he was shocked when a suburbanite host could be induced to go to the place of registration on a rainy night only when one of the candidates sent a carriage for his convenience.

Mr. ARNOLD BENNETT's conclusion from these incidents that Americans are not public spirited is hardly relevant. The custom of tipping a chef is much more extensive in England than it is here, because the grill is in an exposed part of English restaurants and the chef is more easily approached. Conveying voters to the polls in vehicles is one of the most general activities at English elections and is more prevalent than among ourselves. Nevertheless there can be no doubt that public spirit is widespread among Englishmen.

This critic of American institutions seems to think that if we possessed public spirit our elevated, surface and subway lines would not be so crowded during the rush hours, whereas the primary reason for the congestion is the peculiar shape of Manhattan Island. If New Yorkers could scatter from their places of business to their homes at all points of the compass as Londoners do we should have solved our transit problem long ago.

Overcrowding is not unknown in England's suburban trains. An Englishman has the legal right to object to the entrance of any one in a railway carriage after all the seats are occupied. He can enforce his objection by court penalties without difficulty. Yet the comparative absence of such cases does not imply the disappearance of public spirit, but the contrary. We are now building relief subways as fast as we can. The worst centre of London's rush hour turmoil is not relieved because the English railway concerned, which is benefiting by a suburban growth comparable to the development of The Bronx, has been able to fight successfully an application in Parliament from a rival company desiring a franchise to construct a subway tapping the congested territory.

Mr. BENNETT thinks that the frequent philanthropic gifts of American millionaires are not indicative of public spirit, because nothing is necessitated except a moment's time to sign a check. Public spirit, he says, is a matter of continuous application. Doubtless under ideal conditions it is, but Mr. BENNETT has an erroneous conception of millionaires. They devote much thought to their benefactions, and their large gifts are the results of careful, detailed study of conditions warranting their financial intervention.

Never before has there been so much public spirit in the United States as to-day. To any one acquainted with American history that, indeed, is the most distinctive mark of our public character. The movement for political purity alone is evidence of it. If a foreign visitor is confused by the various and conflicting platforms to this end now prevalent, the fault is his unfamiliarity with local conditions and

local rivalries. The delegates from the foreign chambers of commerce who have just completed a tour of the United States declare their amazement at the welfare work of the large corporations on behalf of the employees. That is another instance of public spirit. Mr. BENNETT, too, in a previous article noted this prevalent condition, but he interpreted it simply as a grim effort of big business to secure more efficient results from its workmen. What is public spirit apart from its efforts to increase standards of efficiency and to develop ideals of mutual help?

Mr. BENNETT's comments show once more the difficulties confronting a foreign commentator unprepared by long residence and intimate study to register the tendencies of a civilization novel to him. What usually appeals to the casual investigator is the surface difference between his home standards and those of the foreigner. He subjects the unfamiliar institutions to the logic of his own land, and in consequence marks his conclusions valueless, because international logic does not exist. The evolution of any nationality must follow its own creative course, which can be made known to the foreigner only if he places himself in the stream and notes the internal drifts of the currents. This Mr. BENNETT has not done.

On a venture we guess the Hon. WOODROW WILSON knows best who was "the original Wilson man."

If any of the ancient residents of Mount Olympus still linger they must find the echoes Greek cannon are waking on its slopes pleasant music.

Will he be remembered as DIAZ the Little?

The fact that the riot of 5,000 women in Berlin took place in the Wedding district suggests that they had more than one grievance.

## THE USE OF SACCHARIN.

Forbidden at First, the Food and Drug Board Modified Its Order.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: My attention has been called to an editorial article which appeared in THE SUN recently under the caption "Dr. Wiley Not an Idiot," saccharin being more or less the subject of the editorial. It contained the following statement:

"After painstaking experiments the reference board of consulting scientific experts, of which President Hiram Johnson was the head, condemned saccharin as a deleterious substitute for sugar in foods, and reported that its use was continued it would cause digestive disturbances."

This is the popular impression, but is far from the truth. In a report made to the Secretary of Agriculture under date of January 19, 1912, the reference board of consulting scientific experts reported in part as follows:

"1. The findings of the reference board, based upon what would seem to be convincing experimental evidence, are that small quantities of saccharin, up to 0.5 gram per day, are without effect on the health of man, and are not injurious to health. The poison saccharin is a highly refined food to which small quantities of saccharin have been added, in amounts insufficient to result in a daily intake of more than 0.5 gram of saccharin. The reference board found that foods so treated do not contain any added deleterious ingredient which may render the said food injurious to health."

"2. The addition of saccharin to foods in large or small quantities does not, so far as the findings of the reference board show, effect in any way the quality or nutritive value of the food. In the opinion of the reference board the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since its extreme sweetness renders it practically impossible for the individual to consume more than a small quantity of it. The reference board is of the opinion that the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since its extreme sweetness renders it practically impossible for the individual to consume more than a small quantity of it. The reference board is of the opinion that the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since its extreme sweetness renders it practically impossible for the individual to consume more than a small quantity of it."

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letter, printed to-day on this page, the object contemplated by the self-sacrificing founders of this school is made evident: to preserve the best of Polish culture and tradition in the education of citizens of the United States. No society could strive to attain a more useful and honorable goal. The new college deserves the cordial assistance of all Americans.

Perhaps the Balkan war will end presently from sheer lack of consonants.

A torolase set fire to St. Mark's Episcopal Church here last night. - Denver dispatch.

Presumably the hare arrived with the fire department.

On a venture we guess the Hon. WOODROW WILSON knows best who was "the original Wilson man."

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"After painstaking experiments the reference board of consulting scientific experts, of which President Hiram Johnson was the head, condemned saccharin as a deleterious substitute for sugar in foods, and reported that its use was continued it would cause digestive disturbances."

This is the popular impression, but is far from the truth. In a report made to the Secretary of Agriculture under date of January 19, 1912, the reference board of consulting scientific experts reported in part as follows:

"1. The findings of the reference board, based upon what would seem to be convincing experimental evidence, are that small quantities of saccharin, up to 0.5 gram per day, are without effect on the health of man, and are not injurious to health. The poison saccharin is a highly refined food to which small quantities of saccharin have been added, in amounts insufficient to result in a daily intake of more than 0.5 gram of saccharin. The reference board found that foods so treated do not contain any added deleterious ingredient which may render the said food injurious to health."

"2. The addition of saccharin to foods in large or small quantities does not, so far as the findings of the reference board show, effect in any way the quality or nutritive value of the food. In the opinion of the reference board the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since its extreme sweetness renders it practically impossible for the individual to consume more than a small quantity of it. The reference board is of the opinion that the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since its extreme sweetness renders it practically impossible for the individual to consume more than a small quantity of it. The reference board is of the opinion that the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since its extreme sweetness renders it practically impossible for the individual to consume more than a small quantity of it."

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"9. The reference board is of the opinion that the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since its extreme sweetness renders it practically impossible for the individual to consume more than a small quantity of it. The reference board is of the opinion that the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since its extreme sweetness renders it practically impossible for the individual to consume more than a small quantity of it. The reference board is of the opinion that the use of saccharin in food in quantities that might constitute a menace to health is improbable, since